

**B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims below as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A device that reduces the volatility of radioactive waste comprising:
- (a) a receptacle having an open end said open end having a means for affixing a lid securely to said receptacle,
  - (b) ~~a~~an absorbent matrix comprising a humectant, a pH-stabilizing agent and an adsorbent material said ~~matrix insertable into~~receptacle able to receive said receptacle matrix and
  - (c) ~~A~~a lid affixed to said open end of said receptacle.
2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~wherein said further~~ comprising radioactive waste wherein said radioactive waste comprises a radioactive isotope selected from the group consisting of  $^{125}\text{I}$  and  $^{131}\text{I}$ .
3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~wherein said further~~ comprising radioactive waste wherein said radioactive waste comprises a radioactive isotope selected from the group consisting of  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{33}\text{P}$ ,  $^{32}\text{P}$ ,  $^{35}\text{S}$ ,  $^{18}\text{F}$ ,  $^{15}\text{O}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{N}$ ,  $^{11}\text{C}$ , and  $^3\text{H}$ .
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said receptacle is constructed of a plastic.
6. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said absorbent matrix is constructed of one or more natural materials, one or more synthetic materials or a combination of one or more natural and one or more synthetic materials.

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~5-6~~ wherein said natural material is selected from the group consisting of cotton, wool, paper, vermiculite, starch and diatomaceous earth.
8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~5-6~~ wherein said synthetic material is selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, cellulose derivatives, dextrans, polyacrylamide and hydrophilic polymers.
9. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said absorbent matrix is constructed of unidirectional cotton fibers.
10. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein said pH-stabilizing agent is prepared from one or more of the following compounds selected from the group consisting of TRIS, dibasic ~~phosphonate-phosphate~~ salts, tribasic ~~phosphate-phosphonate~~ salts, sodium borate, the sodium salt of glycine, potassium acetate and potassium hydroxide.
11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein said pH-stabilizing agent is dibasic ~~phosphate-phosphonate~~ salts.
12. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said adsorbent material is starch or polymeric resins.
13. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said adsorbent material is activated charcoal.
14. (Original) A composition comprising an absorbent matrix, a humectant, a pH-stabilizing agent and adsorbent material.

15. (Original) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the absorbent matrix is constructed of unidirectional cotton fibers.
16. (Original) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the humectant is glycerol.
17. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the pH-stabilizing agent is composed of dibasic phosphate ~~phosphonate~~ salts.
18. (Original) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the adsorbent material is activated charcoal.
19. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the absorbent matrix contains about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of glycerol, about 1 to about 10 parts by weight of a composition ~~compositions~~ of disodium phosphate ~~phosphonate~~ salts and about 0.5 to about 10 parts by weight of activated charcoal.
20. (Withdrawn)
21. (Currently Amended) A kit for reducing the volatility of radioactive waste comprising:
- (a) at least one receptacle having an open end said open end having a means for affixing a at least one lid securely to ~~a~~ said at least one receptacle,
  - (b) at least one absorbent matrix comprising a humectant, a pH-stabilizing agent and an adsorbent material said at least one receptacle able to receive said absorbent matrix ~~that may be inserted into said receptacle and~~
  - (c) at least one lid affixed to said at least one receptacle.

Please withdraw claim 20 without prejudice.  
Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice.